

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CU-04 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 HEW-04 HUD-01 INT-05 AID-05
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 EB-08 EPA-01
INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSAE-00 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02
FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
/139 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8117

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: 32UNGA, EGEN

SUBJECT: 32ND UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE: HABITAT (ITEM 12)

REF: STATE 284227

1. SUMMARY: SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL WERE
DISCUSSED IN CONSULTATIONS NOVEMBER 30. IN
SPIRIT OF COOPERATION CO-SPONSORS MODIFIED RESOLU-
TION TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SUBSTANTIVE POINTS
WE WISHED INCLUDED. USUN BELIEVES TEXT DESERVES
USG SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULTATIONS CONCLUDED NOVEMBER 30 AFTER
EXTENDED SESSION WITH CO-SPONSORS MAKING MODIFICATIONS
SET FORTH BELOW. WHILE THEY MAY HAVE FURTHER
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS AND ITALIANS, THE
LIKELIHOOD IS THAT THE RES WILL BE TABLED IN ITS
REVISED VERSION FOR CONSIDERATION BY SECOND COMMITTEE
EARLY NEXT WEEK.

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3. COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: II-2 WAS
MODIFIED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SOVIET AND U.S.
DESIRES TO EXPLICITLY INDICATE THAT NO ADDITIONAL
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY WOULD BE CREATED.
LANGUAGE NOW READS: "DECIDES THAT THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SHOULD TRANSFORM THE COMMITTEE
ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING INTO AN INTER-

GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WHICH WILL HAVE 58 MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED FOR THREE YEAR TERMS ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:" (GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION FORMULA REQUESTED IN REFTEL PARA 6 WAS ACCEPTED). ALSO, WITH REGARD TO II-7 NEW LANGUAGE (ALTHOUGH NOT ELIMINATING GENERAL ASSEMBLY REFERENCE,) PLACES GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSION IS A CREATURE OF ECOSOC, I.E., "DECIDES THAT THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO ECOSOC, AND THROUGH IT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY."

4. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HABITAT SECRETARIAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND UN SECRETARIAT: US DEL MADE PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN REFTEL PARA 3 REGARDING III-9 BUT THIS DID NOT GAIN MUCH SUPPORT AND GENERATED STRONG G-77 RESISTANCE BECAUSE IT WAS VIEWED AS PLACING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FIRMLY UNDER CONTROL OF ESA. WHILE WE ADVANCED ARGUMENTS THAT THIS MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE THE CASE, I.E, THERE WERE OTHER USYG'S WHICH SYG MIGHT DESIGNATE, THIS ENCOUNTERED RESISTANCE FROM OTHER QUARTERS. (FOR EXAMPLE, FRANCE SAW IT AS ASSURING ESA CONTROL, WHILE THE UK WAS CONCERNED IT WOULD BE UNEP.) WHAT WAS AGREED TO WAS THE FOLLOWING: "DECIDES THAT THE CENTRE SHALL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEADED BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO SHALL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING PROVIDES, IF NECESSARY, FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM." (THE PHILIPPINES PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL MODIFICATION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE RANK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WOULD BE DETERMINED AT A LATER TIME. THIS WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED, ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC LANGUAGE WAS NOT PROVIDED.)

5. REGARDING THE TWO NEW PARAGRAPHS PROPOSED IN REFTEL PARAGRAPH 6, THESE WERE ACCEPTED BY THE CO-SPONSORS AND WILL BE AN ADDITION TO SECTION VII NUMBERED AS PARAGRAPHS 27 AND 28, WITH PARAGRAPHS THEREAFTER RENUMBERED.

6. NGO RESOLUTION: THE DUTCH INDICATED THEY WERE NOT PLANNING TO SUBMIT THEIR NGO RESOLUTION AT THIS UNGA BUT WOULD RATHER INTRODUCE IT AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. (WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE APPROPRIATE COURSE OF

ACTION).

7. DURING THE CONSULTATIONS, THE ITALIANS INDICATED THAT WHILE THEY WOULD SUBMIT THEIR AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE, THEY DID NOT INTEND TO PRESS THEIR POSITION DURING CONSULTATIONS RECOGNIZING THE LACK OF SUPPORT FOR IT. THE SOVIETS RE-INTRODUCED IN SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FORM AN ESA/NEW YORK SOLUTION WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR THE CREATION OF A LIAISON OFFICER IN NAIROBI FOR UNEP RELATED ACTIVITIES. FRANCE ASKED FOR A REVISED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS STATEMENT WHICH THE SECRETARIAT ASSURED WOULD BE PROVIDED, IN ADDITION TO INDICATING THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL HAD INTERESTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELEMENTS. OTHER DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING ADDRESSED THEIR REMARKS TO SUGGESTING WAYS TO BROADEN SUPPORT FOR THE COMPROMISE TEXT.

8. CONCLUSION: THERE WERE IMPORTANT MODIFICATIONS MADE TO THE TEXT WHICH WE CONSIDER SUBSTANTIVE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE LINES REQUESTED IN THE REFTEL. THE PREPONDERANCE OF SENTIMENT SUPPORTS THE SOLUTION WORKED OUT IN THE CONSULTATIONS, AND IT CONTINUES TO GROW. IN OUR VIEW IT WILL BE ADOPTED WHETHER BY VOTE OR CONSENSUS EARLY NEXT WEEK, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, USUN RECOMMENDS USG SUPPORT.
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: 32ND UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE: HABITAT (ITEM 12)
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